## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Clay Purvis, Director of Telecommunications and Connectivity

802-371-9655

clay.purvis@vermont.gov

## MEDIA RELEASE

## Do You Have a Student at Home Who Lacks Access to the Internet?

Montpelier, VT - "If your children can't access the Internet from home, we want you to call us," said June Tierney, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Service. Today, the Department released a map, available on its website at <a href="Interactive Broadband Map">Interactive Broadband Map</a>, showing broadband speeds available at addresses across the state. The map includes a survey for Vermonters to fill out about their Internet needs. The Department is collecting any information that you can provide for us to reach out to Internet service providers and other utilities to see what can be done to help you get Internet at your home address. This information will be used to identify locations where students lack access to the Internet or where consumers want service to be improved. Responses, without identifying information, may be shared with service providers.

The Department annually collects broadband deployment information from Internet service providers in Vermont about where they offer service, and the speeds they offer. This information is now available in <u>an interactive map</u> that allows users to view broadband deployment information for all locations in the state.

If you need internet access at home to support your children's educational needs, for medical care or to work from home, Tierney says "the Department is working with utilities to get you help." Call the Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division if you don't have Internet and they will complete the survey with you on the phone. CAPI can be reached by either calling 800-622-4496 (leave a message with your phone number and staff will return your call promptly), emailing <a href="mailto:psd.consumer@vermont.gov">psd.consumer@vermont.gov</a> or by filling out the <a href="mailto:online complaint form">online complaint form</a>.

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Vermont Public Service Department 112 State Street Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

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